



Attorney Docket 023971-0312

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Takeshi ISHIZU et al.

Title: VEHICLE SPEED CONTROL SYSTEM

Appl. No.: 10/697,000

Filing Date: 10/31/2003

Examiner: J.H. Louis Jacques

Art Unit: 3661

REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Mail Stop Amendment

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This communication is responsive to the Non-Final Office Action dated June 11, 2004, concerning the above-referenced patent application. Applicants request reconsideration based on the following remarks.

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed June 11, 2004 has been reviewed and the comments of the Patent and Trademark Office have been considered. Claims 11, 12, and 14 were pending in the application. Since no claims have been added or canceled, claims 11, 12, and 14 are pending in the application and presented for reconsideration.

In the Office Action, claims 11 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. patent 6,157,878 to Suzuki (hereafter "Suzuki"). Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suzuki in view of U.S. patent 5,540,299 to Tohda (hereafter "Tohda"). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections for at least the following reasons.

Each of the independent claims 11 and 14 recite a vehicle speed control unit or method that, *inter alia*, (1) calculates a *correction quantity* for the vehicle speed based on lateral acceleration of the vehicle; and (2) the correction quantity (V_{sub}(t), for example) is